Lincoln Birthday Service

The Grand Army Hall and
Memorial Association of Illinois
Saturday, February 12th, 1921 at 2:30 P.M.

Address by MR. FRANK J. LOESCH

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THE GRAND ARMY HALL

and

MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

TWENTY-SECOND LINCOLN BIRTHDAY SERVICE

Memorial Hall, Chicago

Saturday, February 12th, 1921

2:30 O'Clock P. M.

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MR. FRANK J. LOESCH

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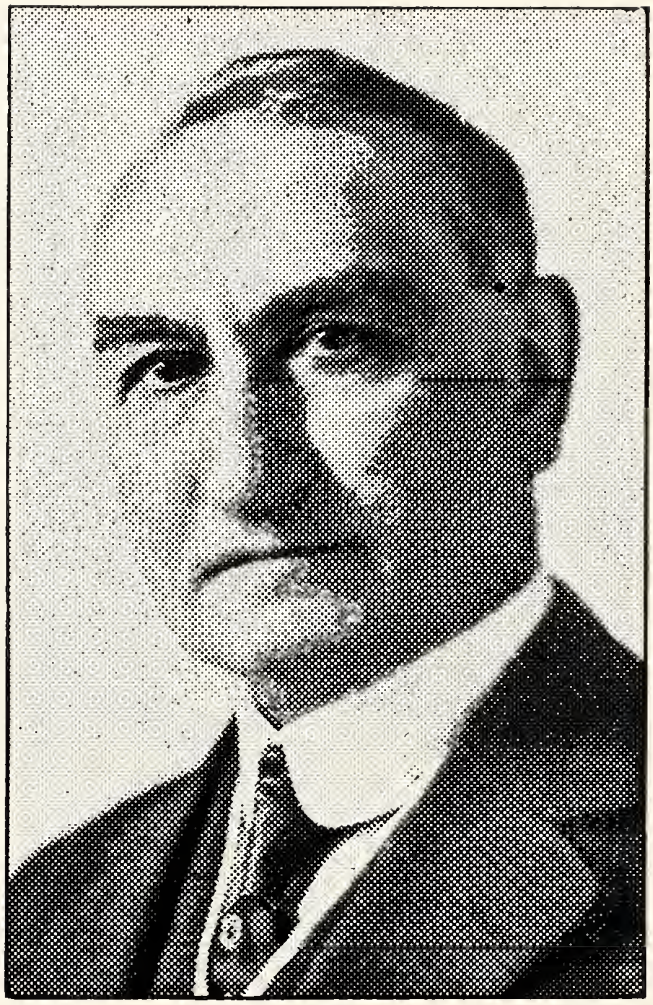

FRANK J. LOESCH

Twenty-Second Lincoln Birthday Service

Memorial Hall, Chicago, February 12, 1921,
Two-Thirty O'Clock P. M.

Invocation by Rev. Nicholas Bayard Clinch.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, in whom we live move and have our being, Lord of all life, source of all light, guiding and governing all things, of Thy loving kindness and power, hear our thanksgiving to Thee for all the joy that Thou puttest into mortal life.

To Thy tender compassion we owe our safety in days past, together with all the comfort of this present life and the hopes of the years to come. Especially at this time do we give thanks and praise Thy Holy Name for the good examples of all those Thy servants who have been the chosen means of Thy grace and the lights of the world in their several generations. We remember those to-day who have served Thee and their fellow men mightily. Our hearts are full of gratitude that Thou didst raise up leaders to guide Thy people through the perilous days, more especially to-day we thank Thee for Abraham Lincoln whom Thou didst endow with supreme qualities of wisdom, faith, love and patience.

Without his love for country and fellow man, without his faith in Thee and his God given wisdom, without his Christ like patience, we still tremble when we remember the days of deadly peril to our beloved land. Now we know that against our hour of need Abraham Lincoln has been sent into the world to save this nation from destruction.

Make us we pray Thee, more deeply sensible that upon us rests the obligation to continue its preservation and may we never again crucify those who under Thy divine inspiration give themselves to the service of their country. Help us to aid them in their great tasks, not to hinder them in their efforts, not to make their hard tasks harder.

By the memory of Lincoln's patient endurance of misunderstanding and calumny let us learn to trust our leaders. Give us hearts full of love and patience to those who have once again saved our land from destruction, that it may continue to be a refuge for the oppressed of all nations, a land of equal opportunities to every man.

May that love show itself not only in monuments of stone to the brave who gave their lives and lie in heroes' graves, but in caring for the crippled and wounded who are handicapped forever in this life. Take away from us the reproach of neglect of their needs and necessities. Comfort these men with the assurance that they have not served a country that will forget their deeds and their sacrifices. Though they go limping through life yet there are hands outstretched to aid and help, hearts to love and honor them.

Lord of the storm and of the calm, the vexed sea and the quiet haven, of day and of night, of life and of death, grant unto us so to have our hearts stayed upon Thy faithfulness, Thine unchangingness and love, that whatsoever betide us, however black the cloud or dark the night, with quiet faith trusting in Thee, we may walk in loveliness towards Thee and in lovingness towards one another and so abide all storms and troubles that may come to us. We ask it for Thy mercy's sake shown in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE PRESIDENT MR. L. W. PITCHER: The audience please arise.

(*Invocation was delivered by the Reverend Nicholas Bayard Clinch.*)

THE CHAIRMAN: The Junior Companions of the Loyal Legion will lead the audience in a little music.

(Illinois was sung.)

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now listen to the reading of the address of Abraham Lincoln at the Battle of Gettysburg dedication by Colonel Lauman.

(Colonel Lauman read the Gettysburg address.)

THE PRESIDENT: The Battle Hymn of the Republic. I hope the audience will feel more at ease and join in singing this great song.

(The Battle Hymn of the Republic was sung.)

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to make a little announcement to the effect that Mr. Victor Lawson of the Daily News has volunteered and sent the Daily News band down here to entertain us a bit and they are now going to give us a little selection before I introduce the speaker of the occasion. (Applause.)

(Selection was rendered by the band.)

PRESIDENT PITCHER: Ladies and Gentlemen and Soldiers of the Republic: It gives me great pleasure this afternoon to introduce a citizen of Chicago who has a message for us, and I take great pleasure in introducing Mr. Frank J. Loesch who will deliver the Address of the day. (Applause.)

Order of Exercises

THE ASSEMBLY - - *Comrade James R. Thacker*

INVOCATION - - - - *Rev. N. B. Clinch*

SOLO AND CHORUS—"Illinois."
Junior Companions of the Loyal Legion
(Miss Whitfield, Accompanist)

SOLO AND CHORUS—"Battle Hymn of the Republic."
Junior Companions of the Loyal Legion

INTRODUCTION of Orator of the Day,
by Lewis W. Pitcher
Pres. Grand Army Hall and Memorial Ass'n

ADDRESS—"Abraham Lincoln" - *Mr. Frank J. Loesch*

"AMERICA" - *Junior Companions of the Loyal Legion*
The Audience

"TAPS"

No man's personality was ever so overshadowed by the *idea* for which he stood as was Abraham Lincoln's. It is not Lincoln himself, but his Idea which persists and becomes greater and greater with each year of our national existence. Already a colossal figure, it looms high above the Goddess of Liberty, admonishing the World to the practice of *personal responsibility* in all the issues of private and public life. If in the new era before us we listen to its voice, America may yet achieve a high destiny undreamed of by Politicians and Plenipotentiaries.

LILIAN RAE.

(*The above was written especially for this occasion.*)

* * * *

MR. LOESCH: Mr. President, and ladies and gentlemen: I appreciate the honor very highly of being asked to deliver the address of the day and I hope that it will be of a character to make us feel additional pride in the man in whose name we are met today.

On the 28th day of last July there was unveiled in Parliament Square in London, standing amidst the figures of many famous Englishmen, a statue in bronze of Abraham Lincoln. It is a replica of the statue by St. Gaudens, in Lincoln Park. The statue was the gift of American citizens, made in the name of the American people, to the people of Great Britain. It was to be symbolical of the union of English speaking peoples who had shed the blood of their sons upon the great battle fields

in France in defense of liberty and of civilization. It was also physical evidence of the opinion of the world wherever civil freedom is loved, that Lincoln had taken his place as one of the great figures in world history.

It is doubtful if such a place would have been accorded to Lincoln before the Great War. But the parallels which educated English opinion drew between many of the problems which confronted them in that conflict for their nation's unity, and those which confronted the North in the Civil War in its endeavor to preserve the American Union made them feel a closer affinity to us than they had felt since pre-Revolutionary days. And in those parallel's Lincoln stood ever uppermost. Out of that English opinion grew "The Life of Abraham Lincoln" by Lord Charnwood, the poem based thereon by Mr. Drinkwater, and the dramatization of that poem, which has enthralled so many hundreds of thousands of people who have witnessed the play here and elsewhere.

Many more books have been written upon the life of Lincoln than upon that of any other American. Every feature of his career from birth to death has had its exponent in biography, pamphlet, essay, oration, sermon or address. Hence it can not be expected at this time that I will make any original contribution to the theme of the day.

Every one at all fairly familiar with the Lincoln literature will agree with the statement of Lord Charnwood that The Lincoln Book has not yet been written. Another century may be needed to give a true perspective of the time and life of Lincoln in their relation to and influence upon national as well as international politics and policies.

It does not, however, follow that because the subject is so familiar, that the story of Lincoln's life and times can be safely neglected. They can not be. They are and

will remain of perennial interest because they are bound up with human nature and the perpetuity of our National Union.

If in the brief time at my disposal I can, for the time, fix anew in our imagination a living outline of one of the greatest men of the world, I shall have succeeded beyond expectations.

Scan the ancestry of Lincoln with the most favorable eye possible, we yet cannot find any claim to marked distinction in any of them.

Usher F. Linder, who was born in Hardin County, Kentuck, 36 days after Lincoln was born in the same County, and who became a leading democrat in Illinois politics contemporaneously with Lincoln as a Whig politician, said of Lincoln's immediate ancestry:

"They were a good family. They were poor and the very poorest people, I might say, of the middle classes, but they were true."

The Lincolns were poor to a proverb even on the frontier where Abraham was born and raised to maturity.

The location upon and removal of Thomas Lincoln with his little family, from one poor farm to another in Kentucky, thence to the unfulfilled hope of something better in Indiana is evidence of a lack of means to get a start with and of thrift in the work of making a permanent home.

The first seven years of Lincoln's life were spent in Kentucky, the next fourteen upon the Indiana farm. His father never had means sufficient to make a substantial first payment upon a good piece of land so he had to take such poor land as was available to one so circumstanced. One had but to visit the birthplace of Lincoln, before it was made the site of the splendid monument which now occupies the ground, to realize what a poverty stricken place and life it must have been a century ago.

The removal to Indiana must have been an improve-

ment. It involved hard work all the days of life there with poor material results. After fourteen years the family migrated to Macon County in Illinois. All their worldly possessions were contained in a modest wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, driven by young Lincoln.

The Indiana life with its poor beginning in a three sided shack, one side open to the weather, the death of his mother the following year, and the lonely year after, must have had something to do with the sad expression of Lincoln's face. The bringing of a good stepmother into the family a year later, and some material improvement therefrom, even when the added increase of her children to the family is considered, could not but have made a cheerful and more inspiring change in the family life. At least there is abundant evidence that Lincoln, between his 17th and 21st years, was a part of the rollicking life among the young people in the backwoods settlement.

Lincoln never was communicative upon his early life. He avoided the subject if sought to be drawn into it. The inference is plain that its memories were not pleasant to dwell upon. The hardships, to one of his sensitiveness must have been difficult to endure for he sought to escape them more than once, but was induced to reconsider and remain at home until he had attained the age of 21 years and give his labor to his father for the family support. He once said that "His father had taught him to work but had not taught him to love it."

Lincoln did refer to the great debt he owed to his mother but when pressed to say which mother, he replied, "Don't ask me that question. Both were as one mother. Hence I simply say mother."

The Indiana life, we have good reason to surmise, offered better social opportunities than did that in Kentucky. It may have been one of the inducements to removal. It brought the family into a newer frontier and into con-

tact with people all equally struggling in the malaria stricken locality for permanent homes. It was a rough life. It had few spiritual advantages. Its practical jokes and coarseness were due in part at least to the rough and illiterate element to be found on every frontier. But there was an equality of condition which gave Lincoln the opportunity of mingling as an equal with all as he grew up.

The Indiana life offered scant opportunities for an education, yet his ambition to learn was the talk of the people. He said that all told his entire schooling did not exceed one year. He has written of himself that when he came of age "he could read, write and cipher by the Rule of Three and that was all." Books were scarce and those that could be borrowed he secured the loan of and made the contents his own, including a copy of the Statutes of Indiana, not an entertaining book, one would suppose, for a youth who was not reading law for admission to the Bar.

After settling his father and family in Macon County, Lincoln took up his abode, in 1830, at Salem, Illinois, a small river village, some six miles from Springfield, where he spent seven years. During that time he served as Captain of a Military Company in the Black Hawk war. He was clerk, store proprietor, surveyor and postmaster. After only two years residence in Illinois, and when but 23 years of age he made an unsuccessful candidacy for the legislature—his only defeat at the hands of the people. In 1834 he was elected a representative to the legislature as a Whig. He served for four successive terms, declining to serve thereafter.

While living at Salem he read law and was admitted to the Bar by Supreme Court of Illinois on March 1, 1837, having just passed his 28th birthday. The following month he removed to Springfield and began the practice of the law as junior partner to John T. Stuart, one of the eminent lawyers of Illinois, who while Lincoln

was making his first successful canvass for the legislature, in 1834, suggested that he study law. He had also most diligently pursued his self-improvement, notably in making his own the contents of a standard English grammar.

Lincoln was 56 years old at the time of his assassination. If we may not very fancifully divide his life into eight periods of seven years such—seven being the perfect number—we will all agree that the last seven years—from 1858 to 1865, were the most important in achievement from every viewpoint. That period aside, no other seven years of his life, were as fruitful of promise for the future and as fateful as well, as the seven years—1830 to 1837—spent with Salem as his homeplace.

He had been so unsuccessful in every business venture that he did not until 1847, succeed in paying the last of the business debts he and his partner had contracted there. He was as unsuccessful in love as he was in business and had buried his heart in the grave of Anne Rutledge at Salem. Fits of despair, almost involving his life were the result, and he was ever thereafter subject to fits of deep melancholy.

But those seven years at Salem, which seemed such a hopeless failure had, in fact, laid firm the foundation of his future career.

His desire for improvement made him a diligent reader of every book he could borrow. He was a fitful worker in consequence.

Farmer Goldy employed him in farm work. One day he found Lincoln sitting barefoot on the summit of a woodpile reading a book. That being an unusual thing for a farm hand in that day, Goldy inquired what he was reading, "I'm not reading" Lincoln answered, "I'm studying." "Studying what?" "Law, sir" was the emphatic response. That was too much for Goldy who, with a strong exclamation at such presumption, passed on.

A young lawyer in Stuart's office in Springfield told of his coming from Salem to borrow law books. He says of him:

> "He was the most uncouth looking young man I ever saw. He seemed to have but little to say; seemed to feel timid, with a tinge of sadness visible in his countenance, but when he did talk all this disappeared for the time and he demonstrated that he was both strong and acute. He surprised us more and more at every visit."
>
> He had by his physical strength and his athletic prowess become the leader of the rough element among the young men, and by his honesty, temperance and studious habits secured the favorable opinion of nearly all others so that he had from Salem and the coutry about, an almost unanimous political following.
>
> He had established a reputation for firmness of character, high morality and conscientiousness in personal, business and political matters. He was ruggedly honest. All these virtues had earned him the title of "Honest Abe." These qualities of mind and heart did not spring from the ground. A step-niece said: "Uuncle Abe got his honesty and his clear notions of living and his kind heart from his father." Some credit therefore may be given to his father as well as to an upright mother.

That supports the statement of Mr. Linder that the Lincoln family "were true."

One story may be appropriate here: One night just before closing time Lincoln hastily weighed, as he thought, a half pound of tea for a belated customer. Looking at the scales on the following morning he discovered that a weight of four ounces instead of eight had been used. To wrap up another quarter of a pound of tea, close the

store again and deliver his parcel at the end of a long walk, before breakfast, was the method he took for repairing the error.

The accuracy of his surveys of land were apparently never questioned.

It is worthy of comment here that amongst the most valuable of historical documents in the Chicago Historical Society collection, are plats of land surveys made by our two greatest Presidents, Washington and Lincoln.

He published a somewhat bombastic address in 1832 at 23 year of age, in announcing his candidacy for the legislature to the People of Sangamon County. It seems to be the earliest of his writings now in existence. It is said that the more glaring grammatical errors were corrected by a friend; but the germs of genius of the later Lincoln are there. Let me quote one paragraph:

> "Upon the subject of education: not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in. That every man may receive at least a moderate education, and thereby be enable to read the histories of his own and other countires, by which he may duly appreciate the value of our free institutions, appears to be an object of vital importance, even on this account alone, to say nothing of the advantages and satisfaction to be derived from all beings able to read the Scriptures and other works, both of a religious and moral nature, for themselves."

Note the wise emphasis he places on the reading of history as necessary to an appreciation of the value of American free institutions and secondarily the advantage and satisfaction to be derived from the reading of the Scriptures. It would be remarkable autobiographical material coming from any man, and coming from him at that age it is certainly marvelous.

Lincoln was a reader of many more books than he is usually credited with having read. He was, so far as books could be obtained, an insatiable reader. He often read lying on the counter of his store, his head upon a bale of cloth.

All accounts agree that even in that time Lincoln was sought by men because of his conversational powers and faculty of story telling as well as for serious discussions. His gift of story telling was, is such a thing is possible, an inheritance from his father and his Uncle Mordecai, the latter having local fame in that respect in Kentucky. Lincoln consciously cultivated it. All relators agree that many of his stories were pure fiction, given a locality by him; but they all had a lesson or a moral. I have heard it said by a number of men who listened to many stories told by Lincoln that none were told without a pointed application. As to this characteristic, Lincoln's partner of twenty years writes:

"In the role of a story teller I am prone to regard Mr. Lincoln as without an equal. I have seen him surrounded by a crowd numbering as many as two and in some cases three hundred persons all deeply interested in the outcome of a story, which when he had finished it, speedily found repetition in every grocery and lounging place within reach. His power of mimicry and his manner of recital were in many respects unique if not remarkable. His countenance and all his features seemed to take part in the performance. As he neared the pith or point of the joke or story every vestige of seriousness disappeared from his face. His little gray eyes sparkled; a smile seemed to gather up, curtain like, the corners of his month; his frame quivered with suppressed excitement; and when the point or 'nub' of the story, as he called it, came, no one's laugh was heartier than his."

Before his removal to Springfield, Lincoln was a members of the Legislature for the Sessions of 1835 and 1837, as one of the members from Sangamon County. His service in the Session or 1835 put him in the forefront of the delegation of nine men elected in 1836 for the Session of 1837 from Sangamon County. Of those nine, seven were members of the House and two of the Senate. The Capital was then at Vandalia. The Sangamon delegation was known as the "Long Nine" because each man was six feet or over in size and they totaled a measurement of over 54 feet in height. They "log rolled" so effectively that they succeeded, on the second last day of the Session, in spite of an eariler apparently fatal defeat, in getting the necessary votes to remove the Capital from Vandalia to Springfield, where it has ever since remained. The financial legislation at that Session, in aid of internal improvements by the State directly undertaking to construct canals and railroads was the most reckless ever passed in the history of the State. It subsequently nearly bankrupted the State. Lincoln had to accept full responsibility for the financial catastrophe which later overtook the State. But on his return to Springfield, he was banqueted as the leader of the "Long Nine" for his service in the removal of the Capital.

It may be surmised from the result that for the sake of carrying the vote for removing the Capital, he was compelled to incur obligations to other members, but against all entreaties of his friends he refused his assent to, and thereby defeated a Bill of doubtful value to the people.

After a conference lasting past midnight when colleagues unavailingly besought Lincoln to aid their measure he made a speech, the concluding sentence of which was:

> "You will never get me to support a measure which I believe to be wrong, although by doing so I may accomplish that which I believe to be right."

In another instance he entered a protest upon the records of the Session, although he could get only one other members to join him in signing it. The protest was drafted by Lincoln and entered on Macrh 3, 1837. It reads in part:

> "Resolutions upon the subject of domestic slavery having passed both branches of the General-Assembly at its present session, the undersigned hereby protest against the passage of the same:
>
> They believe that the institution of slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy, but that the promulgation of abolition doctrines tends rather to increase than abate its evils."
>
> "They believe that the Congress of the United States has no power under the Constitution to interfere with the institution of slavery in the different States.
>
> They believe that the Congress of the United States has the power, under the Constitution, to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, but that the power ought not to be exercised, unless at the request of the people of the District.
>
> The difference between these opinions and those contained in the said resolutions is the reason for entering this protest."

As the sentiment of Springfield people was in favor of the institution, the criticism of it in those words on the one side, and of the Abolitionists on the other, was not a judicious act but it was in line with his conviction. He was never an Abolitionist. The point to bear in mind, however, is that a young man of 28 years, without any means and without influential friends, had the moral courage though ambitions for political honors, to place his convictions upon an unwelcome and unpopular controversial subject, upon the legislative records.

Immediately after the close of the Legislative Session in 1837 as above stated, that is, in April 1837 he took up his residence in Springfield. Though banqueted as the hero of the town a few weeks before, he could not pay the $17 which was the cost of a bed and funishings necssary for his room. In consequence young Joshua F. Speed, who waited upon him in the store where Lincoln sought to make his purchases, offered to share his room and his bed. Lincoln accepted, took his saddle bags containing all his personal property, upstairs, and returned with a smiling face, saying: "Well, Speed, I'm moved."

Mr. Speed said years later: "As I looked up at him I thought then, and think now, that I never saw a sadder face."

On November 4, 1842, nearly six years after his arrival in Springfield, Mr. Lincoln was married to Mary Todd of Kentucky. Mrs. Lincoln came of a distinguished family. She was a well educated, cultured woman, used to the conventions of the best society and shone in it. She was socially restlessly ambitious. She looked to her husband to attain a prominent place in official life, thereby gratifying her own ambition as well. There can be no question but that her keen insight into human nature and the motives which control social beings were of great aid to her husband in promoting his professional and political career, from the social side. She had, however, a tempestuous temper and uncontrollable tongue.

On the other hand, Mr. Lincoln was patience itself and so far as known never lost control of himself. He was shy in society. He was not at ease with women. He avoided them if it was anywise possible to do so. Yet he was a great favorite with them and at social gatherings they enjoyed his conversation and his stories and would gather about him in circles.

There was an uncongeniality in temper, tastes and dispositions which made a happy marriage and comfortable

home impossible. Mr. Lincoln never in the slightest degree interfered in household matters or the control of the children. He was very absent minded. He was not a good provider because he was indifferent to money and concerned only with the ideas which possessed his thoughts and ruled his life. On Circuit, traveling form one County to another, following the Judge in holding Court, at the different County Towns, Lincoln frequently remained alone at the Court town, over the week end, while the other lawyers went back to their comfortable homes and families for the Sunday rest. Lincoln never had a confidant and never unbosomed himself to others. The nearest he came to that was when a man sought him out to demand satisfaction for a servere tongue lashing which Mrs. Lincoln gave him, wholly uncalled for. Lincoln left the company he was talking with at the time, and after listening to the man's story for a moment interrupted with the words: "My friend, I regret to hear this, but let me ask you in all candor, can't you endure for a few moments what I have had to endure for fifteen years?" These words were spoken so mournfully and with such a look of distress that the man was completely disarmed.

One of Lincoln's warmest admirers and life long friends, who survived him for many years, insisted, paradoxical as it may appear, that Mrs. Lincoln was one of the unintentional means of Lincoln's promotion. By her temper she prevented his becoming a domestic man and forced him to mingle with all sorts and conditions of men in stores, offices, taverns, court houses and the State house. He became, thereby, more thoroughly known than any other man in a Circuit of Counties and so became the people's favorite and knew the common people as no other statesman did. The unhappiness of these two unfortunate beings, for we must in the nature of things sympathize with each one, redounded to the good of a race, a nation and the world. Greatness is often unintentionally

secured at terrible and life long private suffering. But if we would fully understand Lincoln's astonishing rise to leadership we cannot ignore the unfortunate domestic situation.

Lincoln was a total abstainer from intoxicating liquors. He fulfilled the pledge to his last hour which he gave to his mother a few days prior to her death that he "would never use as a beverage, anything intoxicating." He never used oaths. He venerated women and deferred to them as few men have; but he was careless of his personal attire and wanting in those polite attentions which women and especially his wife, looked for. She, however, had known him for years before their marriage and hence must be credited, as she has been, with overlooking such defects in view of the undoubted prospect before him of a political future of considerable distinction.

So long as tradition holds sway over men's minds, so long will the story of Lincoln's career as a lawyer be an ever interesting one to the people. For nearly twenty-four years he was an outstanding figure in the profession. It was only a means to a great end. His best thoughts were on political questions. Without, however, the prestige which his practice and acquaintance at the Bar gave him he would not have been able to get the public favor so necessary to move the people's convictions in the direction in which he sought to move them. In a notable book with the title: "Abraham Lincoln, The Lawyer-Statesman" John T. Richards, Esq., of the Chicago Bar has given a list of 175 cases in the Supreme Court of Illinois in which Lincoln alone, or Lincoln with some associate was concerned. As he was continuously on Circuit, it is certain that he must have been there concerned in many hundreds of cases there.

He was original in his methods. He hated the mechanical work of the office. He was not a learned lawyer. He was not well versed in the rules of evidence or of plead-

ings. He probably never read through any of the elementary books of the law. He knew no such thing as order or method in his law practice. In trials on Circuit he made no preparation in advance, but trusted to the hour for its inspiration. He was very slow in his mental processes. One law partner says of hi mthat Lincoln lost many cases because he sould not quickly adjust his tatics to meet some unexpected development or some surprise in the course of the trial—contingencies which every lawyer dreads in the course of a contested trial and yet which he must be prepared to meet and counter. He had, however, what only the ablest lawyers have the rare faculty of seeing the heart of a case when given time to consider it; and shearing it of its unnecesary matters he concentrated all his attention on the controlling point. This made him a successful lawyer on the Circuit and on appeals and always a dangerous antagonist in any case which he had been able to give thought to. His candor was proverbial. It was justice and right which he sought and if his client had not those on his side, Lincoln was a poor advocate for him.

When he was compelled to do the best he could for a client probably guilty or in the wrong, he was not above using adroitness. Of one such case, we have an amusing account by Adlai T. Stevenson, afterwards Vice President of the United States:

"Lincoln was counsel for a man charged with passing counterfeit money, knowing it to be so. There was a pretty clear case against the accused but when the chief witness for the people took the stand he stated that his name was J. Parker Green and Lincoln reverted to this the moment he rose to cross-examine:—"Why J. Parker Green? What did the J stand for? John? Well, why didn't the witness call himself John P. Green? That was his name, wasn't it? Well, what was the reason he did not wish to be known by his right name? Did J. Parker

Green have anything to conceal? If not, why did J. Parker Green part his name in the middle? and so on. Of course the whole examination was farcical but there was something irresistibly funny in the varying tones and inflections of Mr. Lincoln's voice as he rang the changes on the man's name. Moreover there was something in Lincoln's way of intoning his questions which made me suspicious of the witness and to this day I have never been able to rid my mind of the absurd impression that there was something not quite right about J. Parker Green. It was all nonsense of course, but the jury must have been affected as I was, for Green was discredited and the defendant went free."

Lincoln's honesty and fairness to court, jury, client and his brother-lawyers was never impugned. He was the soul of fairness and truth. He was treated with the deference and respect owed to his reputation, except in one notable instance.

In that case a patent suit was argued at Cincinnati, Lincoln was retained for the defendants with George Harding of Philadelphia, the then leader of the Patent Bar of the United States, and Edwin M. Stanton of Pittsburgh. Lincoln made thorough preparation, writing out his argument. When the three counsel met at Cincinnati, Stanton and Harding privately conferred to concoct some method to prevent Lincoln from making an argument, Stanton insisting that it would never do to allow a man of Lincoln's type to make an argument in the case. They finally hit upon a plan. Lincoln was sent for and informed by Mr. Harding that as there were only two Counsel on the other side, it would be unwise to have more than two arguments for the defendants; that Mr. Harding would make the argument on the technical questions, while Stanton would make the other argument. Lincoln quietly acquiesced in being flanked out of the case and handing his brief to Mr. Harding left the room. Harding

threw the brief into the waste basket without opening it. Lincoln was ignored by the counsel at the hearing. The same evening, following the hearing, Harding and Stanton gave a dinner to the Judges and other counsel, excepting Lincoln, who was not invited. Harding described Lincoln as awkward and ungainly in appearance, his clothing uterly devoid of the tailor's art, ill fitting and in no wise suited to his angular fram. He wore heavy boots and his appearance was that of the average farmer of the period. That was in 1855 after Lincoln had almost been elected U. S. Senator.

Of course, the two lawyers concerned in this unprofesional and shabby treatment of an eminent colleague lived to be ashamed of it. Lincoln himself never recovered from the mortification he suffered on that occasion; but six years later he made that same Edwin M. Stanton his Secretary of War and thereby gave him a place in history which otherwise he would not have had. Could human forgiveness go any further?

In that year of 1855 the son of a colored woman went from St. Louis as a hand on a river boat to New Orleans. He was born free but he had no free papers and so was kept in prison until his boat left New Orleans. There was no one to look after him so he was forgotten. He would have been sold into slavery for the charges of his prison keep had not the firm of Lincoln and Herndon given their aid at the prayer of the mother. The lawyers went to the Governor of Illinois for help but he found he could do nothing. Then they appealed to the Governor of Louisiana who made like response. A second interview with the Governor of Illinois was equally unfavorable. Lincoln rose from his chair, hat in hand and exclaimed with emphasis: "By God, Governor, I'll make the ground in this country too hot for the foot of a slave, whether you have the legal power to secure the release of

this boy or not." Lincoln then drew up a subscription list which his partner circulated and with the money so raised the prisoner was freed and restored to his mother.

Whenever Lincoln was actively engaged in politics he lost interest in the law. After serving four terms as a member of the Illinois Legislature, he refused further re-elections and became ambitious for a seat in Congress. His ambition was gratified in 1846 when he was elected to Congress as a Whig representative. He served from March 4, 1847 for one term and declined a re-election. He opposed the Mexican War.

At the same time that Lincoln's term as Congressman ended, on March 5th, 1849, General Zachary Taylor, Whig candidate for President was sworn in: Lincoln hoped to return to Washington and finally sought to become Commisioner-General of the Land Office. It was given to another instead. Lincoln was offered the governorship of Oregon and was inclined to accept it. Mrs. Lincoln gave an emphatic "No" and that settled it for Mr. Lincoln. The County owes a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Lincoln's memory for that.

Lincoln then turned to the diligent practice of the law. Though forty years of age he began the study of Euclid until he could, with ease, demonstrate all the propositions in the six books. He devoted himself to the study of law in earnest and the reading of the best literature as well. His term in Congress had made clear to him his deficiencies which could yet be remedied. Any one taking the pains to make the comparison cannot fail to note the closer reasoning and I would say the merciless logic which characterizes his speeches from 1853 on, compared with those prior to 1850. It was the result of constant reading and study every spare moment. He read aloud, on Circuit, lying in bed, with a candle at his head, while the other lawyers were asleep in the same room. He read aloud in his law office, to the discomposure of his partner

and students but he mastered a subject to the foundation. He once threw aside a biography of Edmund Burke with the exclamation: "No, I've read enough of it. It's like all the others. Biographies as generally written are not only misleading, but false. The author of this life of Burke makes a wonderful hero out of his subject. He magnifies his perfections—if he had any—and suppresses all his imperfections. He is so faithful in his zeal and so lavish in praise of his every act that one is almost driven to believe that Burke never made a mistake or a failure in his life." He lapsed into a brown study, but presently broke out again, "Billy, I've wondered why book-publishers and merchants don't have blank biographies on their shelves, always ready for an emergency, so that if a man happens to die, his heirs or his friends, if they wish to perpetuate his memory, can purchase one already written, but with blanks. These blanks they can at their pleasure fill up with rosy sentences full of high-sounding praise. In most cases they commemorate a lie, and cheat posterity out of the truth. History," he concluded, "Is not history unless it is the truth."

The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska law, including therein the repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1854 and by reason of such repeal permitting slavery to be extended into the new territories, aroused the sleeping lion in Lincoln and he came forth from his retirement.

His great speech made at Peoria in October, 1854 centered attention upon him as the one available man the Whigs had to put forward as candidate for U. S. Senator to succeed General Shields. But he failed to get the necessary votes in the Legislature and Lyman Trumbull was elected instead by a combination of the Whig members and Kansas-Nebraska democrats. Lincoln was sorely disappointed.

In May, 1856 the First Republican State Convention of Illinois was held at Bloomington. Lincoln made a

speech which he had not written out and which was not reported. It was written out from memory later by Henry C. Whitney. It is known as the "Lost Speech." It is agreed by all who heard Lincoln then that he never before or after rose to the fire which he exhibited in that effort. His tall form seemed several feet higher. The following paragraph is worth our consideration today:

> "The union is undergoing a fearful strain; but it is a stout old ship, and has weathered many a hard blow, and 'the stars in their courses,' aye, an invisible power, greater than the puny efforts of men, will fight for us. But we ourselves must not decline the burden of responsibility, nor take counsel of unworthy passions. Whatever duty urges us to do or to omit, must be done or omitted. Therefore, let us revere the Declaration of Independence; let us continue to obey the Constitution and the laws; let us keep step to the music of the Union."

The convention members went into a frenzy of enthusiasm at the climax—as he spoke to the Southern disunionists—"we won't go out of the Union and You Shan't." Yet a few days later when he was advertised to speak in Springfield, only three men were present, himself, his partner and another man, so unpopular were his views in his home town. He humorously said "there is one more man here than I expected."

In 1858 he was made the Republican Senatorial nominee to succeed Stephen A. Douglas in the United States Senate. Out of that canvass grew the seven joint debates between Lincoln and Douglas which the whole country followed with intense interest. But while his friends were training Lincoln for the Senatorship, Lincoln was training for the Presidency. In spite of the advice of his friends he made the speech wherein he said that a house

divided against itself shall not stand—that the United States could not remain half free and half slave—it must become all free or all slave.

His friends predicted that if he made the proposed speech he would lose the Senatorship. Only one, his partner—justified the wisdom of the speech. The prediction proved to be true. In defending to his friends the use of the phrase quoted almost literally from Jesus' words in the Gospel of Mark, he said:

> "The time has come when these sentiments should he uttered, and if it is decreed that I should go down because of this speech, then let me go down, linked to the truth—let me die in the advocacy of what is just and right."

The six months time given to that campaign was ruinous to Lincoln's law practice and put him into severe financial starits. He was induced to go upon the lecure platform. In the course of his lecture tour, in February 1860 he made the "Cooper Institute Speech" in New York City. One has but to read it to realize the statement that no former effort in that respect had cost him so much time and thought as that one. The speech was later brought out as a campaign document and it was said that it literally took weeks to verify the statements and find the historical records referred to and consulted by Lincoln in its preparation.

For my purpose it is not necessary to follow Lincoln in the steps leading to his nomination and election as President, nor to go into any detail relating to his administration of that great office through the Civil War which began almost with his inauguration and only ended after he had entered upon his second term. But he saw the victory of the Union before he died.

What we are concerned with is that in all that terrible time of trial, the bloody war and the thoughts de-

spairing of the Union, Lincoln had one thought uppermost—the preservation of the Union as our fathers had given it to us. He stands out as the world's greatest Emancipator. The act of Emancipation was only a means to an end and that end was to save the Union. Had Lincoln shown any weakness whatever to any power, to any class, or to any interest when so many were pressing upon him to make peace on any terms the Union would have been shattered. He was fiercely and continuously assailed by the extreme Abolitionists because he would not favor an immediate Emancipation Act from the moment the war opened. On the other side he was assailed as a tyrant overthrowing our liberties and the Constitution, because he used all his Executive powers to suppress the Rebellion. He was called a Trimmer. He never was that. He was an Opportunist. He did not force the people in advance of their convictions. He partly lead and partly folowed them. When the time was right he acted. When the time appeared propitious for the Emancipation Proclamation he issued it because the Union needed the inspiration of it, the slave and ex-slave in the Union ranks the hope of ultimate freedom in victory and the world needed to know the real nature of the struggle. From that time on there was no further thought of foreign intervention in our internal affairs. Not only was he the civil magistrate of our Country, but with a fierce intellectual energy which few men possess, he made himself master of military strategy by giving almost all his spare time, (one wonders how he had any) to reading books on that subject. Those who were nearest him through Administration write of him in this respect as follows (Nicolai and Hay):

> "General Sherman had the highest admiration for the remarkable correctness of Lincoln's military views. Generals W. F. Smith and J. H. Wilson held the opinion that at the close of the War Lincoln was

the superior of his generals in his comprehension of the effect of strategic movements and the proper method of following up victories to their legitimate conclusions. Col. Robert N. Scott called him "the ablest strategist of the war."

Lord Charnwood writes his belief that the more his military strategy is studied the greater will he rise in history as a strategist.

His practical experience in legislation, his profound study of our forms of government and State; his knowledge of National law, his intimate acquaintance with the common people, made him a master of state craft. He did not believe in forcing Congress to do his will. He believed that they represented the people and should develop their own leadrs to work in harmony with his administration as they, in the end always did. For years before he came to the Presidency he had, as one lawyer expressed it, thought longer and deeper than any man he ever knew. Most of those deep thoughts were upon constitutional questions which in their last analysis meant the civil liberties of all the people of the United States as well as their obligation to maintain the Union intact as being the greatest blessing ever vouchsafed to any people. His passionate love for the Union is apparent in every act and to maintain that he feared no men or class of men. His clear eyed straightforwardness was never more apparent than when a Committee of New York business men waited on him to demand a gunboat for the protection of the harbor when they feared a raid from a rebel iron-clad. They were introduced to Mr. Lincoln as men representing a hundred million dollars. He replied to their request that the Government had no gunboat to spare for that purpose. Then he added: "If I had half as much money as it is said you represent and if I were half as scared as you say you are I would build a gunboat at my own expense."

He put into his Cabinet the greatest men he could find and a discordant number they often were, but he did not, on that account, attempt to manage the departments or make them mere clerks.

Nothing stands out greater in Lincoln than his willingness to listen to any criticism by any of his Cabinet to any plan he had formed. He put off, for a short time, the isue of the Emsancipation Proclamation, on Seward's suggestion that it were best to await a military victory. On the day the Proclamation was issued, he said to his Cabinet that the time had come. That he had made a covenant that if God gave us the victory in the approaching battle he would consider it an indication of the Divine Will, and God had decided this question in favor of the slaves.

When Captain Wilkes commanding a war steamer overhauled "the Trent" a British ship, and took as prisoners of war Mason and Slidell who were Confederate Commissioners, to European Countries the North was aflame with enthusiasm. It was willing to welcome war to retain the men. Great Britain demanded the surrender of the prisoners. Lincoln said that in doing so she had reversed her position which led to the war of 1812 and it was worth the surrender of the men to have England concede that she had been wrong for 60 years. He prepared a paper in reply to Great Britain's demand. At a Cabinet meeting called to consider this serious question Secretary of State Seward read his reply to Great Britain's demand. It was so able and conclusive a historical statement that Lincoln did not even refer to his own paper on the subject. The prisoners were surrendered but the moral victory was ours and the publicity given to Mason and Slidell rendered their mission fruitless.

It is said that Lincoln was so deficient in executive ability that by reason of it the Civil War was prolonged

two years. He was too lenient with Generals it was said. This criticism implies that the North was a unit. Unfortunately it was not. Lincoln in one of his ablest messages to Congress in 1862, which is forgotten by all but historians, earnestly urged upon Congress the policy of saving blood and money and ending the war by issuing bonds to purchase the freedom of all the slaves; but neither North nor South was willing to listen to such a proposition. Hence he had to guide and instruct a public opinion which would sustain the war to a victorious end. His words and his actions indicated that to build up public opinion was not a work of overnight. It required caution, honesty and practicability. His life was evidence enough to him that the right would triumph and he at least never seemed to despair. When all the politicians despaired of his re-election he rested upon the common people and they justified his faith by an almost unanimous electoral vote for a second term.

Long and bitter controversey has ranged over Lincoln's religious views. It is insisted with some truth that he was, in early life, an atheist—a disbeliever in a Living God. On the other hand it is insisted that he was an earnest believer in the Christian faith. The acts of his later life indicate the most complete reliance upon Divin Providence for his guidance. He sought God in prayer frequently and so said. His messages, speeches and state papers show an increasing reliance upon God's help. He said the Bible was the best gift of God to men. Lincoln looked honestly into men's faces. No one who saw that look ever after questioned his integrity of purpose. He as honestly looked to Heaven for help when human aid failed. He never openly professed the Christian faith although it would seem as though his convictions were strongly tending that way.

In his recent book, "The Soul of Abraham Lincoln," Dr. William E. Barton has formulated, and I think fairly

so, in Lincoln's words, his religious creed. Let me quote one paragraph only:

> "Being a humble instrument in the hands of our Heavenly Father, I desire that all my works and acts may be according to His will; and that it may be so I give thanks to the Almighty and seek his aid."

Lincoln wielded a pen with a mastery of English which is the despair of scholars and the envy of statesmen. It will give him immortal fame. By his terse speeches at Gettysburg and at the second Inaugural, every child in America loves and will learn to know and to love him, and in maturity they will venerate his memory. By his faith in the people, his patience, his charity toward his enemies, his convictions of right and wrong which would not permit him to compromise away the one, or to condone the other for the sake of political expediency, and by his intellectual honesty in dealing with himself and with the people and other nations, he set an example which rulers and statesmen ought to study and emulate now.

As "Lincoln's blood came from the veins of New Englang emigrants, Middle State Quakers, Virginia planters and Kentucky pioneers" and he rose in the freedom of the air of the Republic from the humblest station by his intellectual and personal integrity and the suffrages of an intelligent people to the Presidency of the United States, he lives as the Ideal American. His simplicity of mind and bearing in his exalted station, his sympathy with the plain people in their suffering and with the soldiers who gave their lives for his ideal, his unselfish devotion to the Union, make him the idol of every people who have a printed language.

As the Emancipator of millions of slaves, he is to untold millions in foreign lands, the soul of America.

His many sided character defies analysis and he will never be fully understood. He was a mystery in life; he remains a mystery in death. He came to power as the President of a union of States, half free and half slave, falling apart into disunion and into a fratricidal war. He left them a powerful nation all free and now the hope of a distracted world. He died with hatred for none and with charity for all. His fame has long since passed his Country's bounds and his name will live in history as the Greatest Man of the Nineteenth Century.

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